



Modern warriors

Northern beaches children are learning to gain confidence so they don't become the target of bullies. See page 3

Maeve McNulty, 10, at the Modern Warriors anti-bullying program.
Picture: TROY SNOOK

STOUSH OVER WINNING BID FOR GOVERNMENT'S MANLY FAST FERRY TENDER

FARCE FERRY

STORY
PAGE 5

INSIDE: AC/DC LEGEND MOVES TO NORTHERN BEACHES - PAGE 7

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DEE WHY

Unholy row at St Kevin's

Steven Deare

RECORDS SHOW CHURCH SOLD THE LOT IN 1968, SAY OFFICIALS

WARRINGAH Council has disputed a claim at the centre of the row with St Kevin's Catholic Church over a new development.

Yesterday, the *Daily* reported church advocate Kevin Begaud's complaint

that the council's decision to sell the land next to the Dee Why institution went against the terms of a 47-year-old agreement ("Holy war over sale", March 26).

Officials yesterday examined records and found the

church in 1968 did not donate the lot to the council.

In fact, the church sold the lot for \$18,600.

The lot is about one-eighth of the Howard Ave carpark.

General manager Rik Hart said there had been a

covenant that the land be used by the community, which was removed about 10 years ago by the council's administrator with the aim of developing the town centre for the benefit of the entire community.

This was to include buildings like a library and theatre.

Mr Hart said it was the council's intention that the land still be used for the community - including the NSW Police.

The sale of the carpark would require the buyer to accommodate the Northern Beaches Police headquarters and public parking.

Mr Begaud says this would still not honour the original agreement with the church.

FAIRLIGHT

Family histories revealed in dance

Kat Adamski

COMBINING delicate masculinity with speed and precision, Raghav Handa tells the story of his past, present and future using objects passed down by his ancestors.

The Fairlight dancer and choreographer, who was born in India, has created a memory map of his family history through music and dance.

He will present the contemporary piece, *Tukre*, exploring how cultural lineage can be communicated and shared through objects and movement at Parramatta's Riverside Theatre from April 29 to May 2.

Some of the family heirlooms he uses are silver glasses and a diamond necklace, appropriate given his great-grandfathers were diamond merchants.

"I was talking to my mum and I realised people have a different affinity to the past, present and future," Handa, 33, said.

"While my ancestors worked with their hands, I'm using choreography to replicate these techniques.

"I feel like I am revealing the work of my family, even if we can't carry on each profession.

Tukre means pieces in Hindi.

Visit riversideparramatta.com.au/show/tukre/



Choreographer and dancer Raghav Handa communicates his Indian ancestry through music and dance.

Picture: TROY SNOOK

NEWPORT

Program gives youth skills to tackle bullies

MAEVE McNulty has been taught how to stand up for herself since she was five.

Now 10, Maeve is a confident character and surrounded by lots of feisty female friends who are less likely to become the targets of bullies.

The Year 5 student, of Newport, is one of many children who have benefited from the Modern Warriors program, which teaches them how to use words against a bully and why it is important to have a social circle outside of school.

The anti-bullying program (a blend of traditional jiu jitsu and learning about age-appropriate life skills) was started by leading jiu jitsu instructor Sensei Rose Smith, who said that learning a martial art was not about "beating bullies up".

"Knowing how to defend yourself gives you confidence and makes you feel safe," Smith said.

"When a child is physically confident, they don't feel so scared about sticking up for themselves or others."

Mona Vale clinical child psychologist Greg Powell said the impact of a positive and functioning environment was "hugely important" for children and he advised parents to get to know their children's friends' parents.

A family workshop on how to deal with bullies will be held in Avalon on Saturday, April 18.

Cost is \$50 a family. For more details, visit modernwarriors.com.au.

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